

M-12-42-21

1860's-1880's

Richard Mercer Family House (Site)
Big Woods community
Private

Like most other log houses of black landowners in the first decades after emancipation, this log dwelling contained two rooms down and two rooms up. It has since been abandoned and nothing remains above ground of its existence.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 12-42-21
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Richard Mercer Family House (site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Big Woods Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☒ VICINITY OF Big Woods

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Richard Mercer

Telephone #: Not Listed

STREET & NUMBER

21051 Big Woods Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: EBP 27

Folio #: 58

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:12-42-21

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Florence Hallman says that this house was a log dwelling with two rooms down and two up and resembled the log houses of Fred Hamilton and Louis Brown. See descriptions of those houses in Big Woods community for further details.

The outbuildings were the ordinary ones around the small farm houses of Black families.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-21

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Possibly 1860s to 1880s BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This tract of 4 acres was purchased in 1882 by Richard C. Mercer, as recorded in deed EBP 27/58. He bought it from Elias and Mary Francis Price. They in turn had acquired it from Daniel and Sarah Price, presumably the parents of Elias Price. The identity of the Price family ought to be researched further since they purchased this tract in 1868, along with others, and it is not known whether they were white or among the early Black settlers of the community.

Significantly, the deed conveying the land from Daniel and Sarah Price to Elias Price, dated 1868, refers to a "shoe shop" near the sudden bend in the road in front of this tract. Perhaps the Price family were cobblers. The presence of a shoe shop here indicates there was already a community here, rather than widely scattered farmsteads at this time (1868).

Since the house is no longer standing and since there were several possible occupapnts/owners in the 1860s to 1880s, its date of construction can only be estimated: c. 1868 - 1882. Or perhaps earlier to the time of ownership of Daniel and Sarah Price.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
Deeds: EBP 27/58; EBP 5/240/

Oral interview with Florence Hallman, July-August 1978 (not taped) by
George W. McDaniel, Big Woods Community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438